

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PANAMA 01786 301503 Z

47

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

OMB-01 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /097 W
----- 065092

R 301357 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO GOV PANCANAL

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 1786

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN, PQ

SUBJ: GOP SEEKS POLICY ON FUTURE CANAL NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A) PANAMA 1580 B) PANAMA 1660

SUMMARY: GOVT. INSPIRED MEDIA COVERAGE AND GOP LEADERSHIP STATEMENTS REFLECT CONTINUED SEARCHING FOR MOST ADVISABLE NEXT STEPS ON CANAL NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. GOP HAS ANNOUNCED THAT BEGINNING APRIL 2, TORRIJOS WILL BEGIN HIS CONSULTATIONS WITH THE 505 REPRESENTATIVES OF CORREGIMIENTOS IN EACH OF THE NINE PROVINCES OF PANAMA. THE STATED PURPOSE OF THIS CONSULTATION IS TO INFORM THE REPRESENTATIVES IN DETAIL OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING AND TO DISCUSS WITH THEM THE NEXT STEPS WHICH PANAMA SHOULD TAKE " TO THE GREATEST BENEFIT OF THE NATIONAL INTEREST AND REFLECTING THE SOLIDARITY AND UNANIMITY OF THE PANAMANIAN PUBLIC".

2. GOVERNMENT- CONTROLLED MATUTINO MARCH 29 CARRIES, UNDER FRONT PAGE HEADLINE " TO CONTINUE SPEAKING IN A FRANK AND UPRIGHT MANNER, THE NEGOTIATIONS MUST BE SUSPENDED", A LENGTHY COLUMN BY CARLOS CALZADILLA, VETERAN AND WIDELY KNOWN RADICAL ON THE CANAL ISSUE. CALZADILLA ARGUES THAT IT IS USELESS TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE U S SO LONG AS THE U S IS WEDDED TO OLD COLONIALIST AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PANAMA 01786 301503 Z

EXPANSIONIST POLICIES. HE ADVISES, " PANAMA MUST SEEK OTHER CHANNELS: I DO NOT BELIEVE VIOLENCE WOULD BE ADVISABLE, BUT IT IS NECESSARY AND URGENT TO REORIENT OUR ACTIONS AND TO ACHIEVE SOLIDARITY WITH THE COUNTRIES OF THE THIRD WORLD..." HE GOES ON TO ADVISE THAT THE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE U S SHOULD BE SUSPENDED AND THE ISSUE RETURNED TO THE UNITED NATIONS FOR DISCUSSION IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. CALZADILLA ARGUES THAT WHAT IS NEEDED NOW IS NOT DESPERATION ON THE PART OF PANAMA BUT A " DOSE OF PATIENCE" TO AWAIT THE TIME WHEN THE U S TAKES FULLY INTO ACCOUNT " THE NEW REALITY THAT EXISTS IN HUMANITY, THE THIRD WORLD, AND ESPECIALLY IN LATIN AMERICA."

3. ON FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS, TACK' S MARCH 20 PRESS CONFERENCE (REF A) AND TORRIJOS MARCH 21 INTERVIEW (REF B) ARE LATEST GOP STATEMENTS. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION TACK CLARIFIED THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN SUSPENDED BUT THERE IS NOW A PROCEDURE INVOLVING AN EXCHANGE OF DOCUMENTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES THUS ESTABLISHING THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS IN WRITING. TACK ALSO SAID " UP TO NOW THE ONLY THING WE HAVE DONE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS HAS BEEN TO MUTUALLY MAKE KNOWN OUR POSITIONS OF PRINCIPLES REGARDING MATTERS IN THE NEW TREATY. NOW THEN, AS WE HAVE NOT AGREED ON THESE QUESTIONS OF PRINCIPLE, WE BELIEVE IT IS NOT WORTHWHILE TO CONTINUE." (FBIS PANAMA P 201557). IN HIS INTERVIEW , TORRIJOS SAID " WE MUST NOT BE TOO OPTIMISTIC" ON NEGOTIATIONS (FBIS PANAMA P222018).

4. COMMENT. GOP APPEARS FOR THE NEXT MONTH OR MORE TO BE HEADED FOR PROPAGANDA - CONSULTATION EXERCISE IN WHICH VARIOUS IDEAS SUCH AS CALZADILLA' S WILL BE FLOATED AS TRIAL BALLOONS. THIS AVOIDS DECISION- MAKING FOR TORRIJOS AND ALLOWS HIM TO DO WHAT HE LIKES BEST -- TRAVELING ABOUT THE COUNTRY FEELING THE POPULAR PULSE. HOWEVER, IT IS APPARENT FROM THE TACK AND TORRIJOS PRESS CONFERENCES AND SUBSEQUENT PRESS STORIES THAT SOME THOUGHT IS BEING GIVEN BY GOP TO CREATING IMPRESSION BONA FIDE NEGOTIATIONS MAY IN FACT NOT BE IN PROGRESS, PERHAPS TO PAVE WAY FOR MORE CONVINCING AUTUMN APPEAL IN UNGA FORUM. SAYRE

CONFIDENTIAL

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PANAMA01786
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730342/aaaaimnf.tel
Line Count: 106
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 PANAMA 1580, 73 PANAMA 1660
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Jan-2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <12 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 980109
Subject: GOP SEEKS POLICY ON FUTURE CANAL NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, PM, n/a
To: ARA
GOV PANCANAL
SECSTATE WASHDC
USCINCSO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005